

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 12905 01 OF 02 111612Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 INRE-00
ICAE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 PA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /044 W
-----048702 111645Z /46
O 111602Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9052

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12905

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, CASC, US, UK
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - STANDBY SITUATION EASES; FUTURE
UNCLEAR

REF: (A) LONDON 12380 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 197542 (NOTAL);
(C) STATE 190280; (D) LONDON 12038 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: STANDBY SITUATION HAS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT IT IS TOO SOON TO CONCLUDE WE ARE OUT OF THE WOODS. RETENTION TO SEPTEMBER 10 OF EMERGENCY MEASURES, SUCH AS ALLOWING STANDBYS TO FILL EMPTY CHARTER SEATS, IS RECOMMENDED. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE SITUATION FOR STANDBY AND SKYTRAIN PASSENGERS DID NOT CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY OVER WEEKEND OF AUGUST 5-6, IN PAST FEW DAYS IT HAS EASED CONSIDERABLY, WITHOUT DISAPPEARING ENTIRELY. AS OF MORNING AUGUST 11 (TODAY), THERE WERE NO MORE STANDBY PASSENGERS WAITING AT PANAM, TWA, BRITISH AIRWAYS, BRANIFF, DELTA OR NATIONAL THAN COULD LIKELY BE CARRIED EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW (SATURDAY). LAKER QUEUE AT VICTORIA IS DOWN TO ABOUT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 12905 01 OF 02 111612Z

250 OVERNIGHTERS FROM THURSDAY, ALL OF WHOM COULD EXPECT TO FLY BY SATURDAY.

3. IMPROVEMENT HAS RESULTED PRIMARILY FROM A COMBINATION OF REDUCED RESERVED-SEAT DEMAND, SLOWER FLOW INTO THE STANDBY LINES, AND UTILIZATION OF THE CHARTER WAIVER AUTHORITY TO PUT STANDBY PASSENGERS INTO CHARTER SEATS.

LAKER PARTICULARLY HAS MADE USE OF THE LAST. SINCE AUGUST 4, IT HAS PUT ABOUT 175 SKYTRAIN PASSENGERS ON ITS OWN CHARTERS TO NEW YORK, 25 TO SAN FRANCISCO, AND 30 TO OTHER DESTINATIONS. IN ADDITION, ABOUT 150 SKYTRAIN PASSENGERS HAVE TRAVELED TO NEW YORK ON CAPITOL FLIGHTS AND 30 ON TIA. FORTY WENT TO SAN FRANCISCO ON A TWA CHARTER, AND 125 ON WORLD FLIGHTS TO OTHER DESTINATIONS. TOTAL DIVERTED TO CHARTER: 575.

4. SCHEDULED AIRLINES HAVE APPARENTLY RELIED MUCH LESS ON CHARTERS. PANAM, WHICH HAD BY FAR THE LONGEST LINE AFTER LAKER, INITIALLY ASCRIBED THE DIMINUTION IN ITS LINES ENTIRELY TO THE REDUCTION IN RESERVED-SEAT TRAFFIC, ALTHOUGH IT IS PRESENTLY CHECKING THAT IMPRESSION.

5. WHILE ALL CARRIERS HAVE WORKED TO RELIEVE THE SITUATION, THE ACTIONS OF PANAM AND ON A SMALLER SCALE, BRANIFF, BOTH IN IMPROVING AVAILABILITY OF SEATING AND IN TRYING TO LESSEN THE INCONVENIENCE OF WAITING LINES, ARE PARTICULARLY COMMENDABLE. BCAL'S INITIATIVE IN CONVERTING A FREIGHTER INTO AN EXTRA SECTION WAS ALSO MOST HELPFUL. WHILE WE WISH LAKER HAD TAKEN A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN IMPROVING WAITING CONDITIONS FOR THEIR PASSENGERS, THEY TOO HAVE BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE AND ACTIVE IN TRYING TO SCHEDULE EXTRA EQUIPMENT (SINCE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 12905 01 OF 02 111612Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 12905 02 OF 02 111614Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 INRE-00
SCS-06 CA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 /044 W
-----048855 111645Z /46

O 111602Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9053

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 12905

BEGINNING OF AUGUST A DC-10 ON AUGUST 2 AND A 707 ON AUGUST 6) AND COORDINATE AVAILABILITY OF CHARTER SEATS. AND OF COURSE LAKER HAS BEEN CARRYING FAR MORE STANDBY PASSENGERS THAN ANYONE ELSE DURING THIS PEAK PERIOD.

6. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, A BRITISH COURT ON AUGUST 10 GRANTED THE BRITISH AIRPORTS AUTHORITY'S REQUEST FOR AN INJUNCTION BARRING SALES OF STANDBY TICKETS AT HEATHROW UNTIL DECEMBER 15. TWA, THE ONLY AIRLINE NAMED IN THE REQUEST, HAS SAID IT WILL COMPLY.

7. RECOMMENDATION: WHILE WE HOPE THAT OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS INTENDING STANDBY PASSENGERS (INCLUDING SKYTRAIN) WILL HAVE NO GREATER DELAYS THAN 1-2 DAYS, THE PRESENT SITUATION MAY BE DECEPTIVELY REASSURING. ASIDE FROM THE INHERENT DIFFICULTIES OF PREDICTION, LAKER REPORTS A MILD PEAKING OF SKYTRAIN TRAVELERS ON WEEKENDS, WITH THE LOW JUST BEFORE, I.E., ABOUT NOW. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A HISTORIC GENERAL WESTBOUND TRAFFIC SURGE ABOUT LABOR DAY. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN, SUCH AS THE CHARTER WAIVER, BE LEFT IN PLACE AT LEAST ANOTHER SEVEN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 12905 02 OF 02 111614Z

DAYS, AND PREFERABLY, UNLESS THERE ARE GOOD ARGUMENTS TO THE CONTRARY, UNTIL THE WEEKEND AFTER LABOR DAY, I.E. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10.

BREWSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CIVIL AVIATION, PASSENGERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON12905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780329-0035
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780874/aaaacjzp.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49d6f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 12380, 78 STATE 197542, 78 STATE 190280, 78 LONDON 12038
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1769734
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - STANDBY SITUATION EASES; FUTURE UNCLEAR
TAGS: EAIR, CASC, US, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49d6f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014